



ANTHURIUM WHITEFLY

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Common Name: Anthurium whitefly
Scientific Name: *Aleurotulus anthuricola*
Nakahara
Order: Homoptera
Family: Aleyrodidae

Damage

White, waxy, powdery material occurs in leaf and flower sheaths, on petioles, and on the flower spathes in severe infestations. Whitefly infestations do not affect plant growth. For a photograph of the damage, see HITAHR Brief No. 073, "Identifying Anthurium Flower Injuries," Figure 6a. Anthurium whitefly is a quarantined pest of export anthuriums.

Other Hosts

This species is apparently host-specific on *Anthurium* spp.

Distribution

Discovered in Hawaii in 1978, anthurium whitefly is native to Colombia and to several islands in the Lesser Antilles, West Indies.

Description and Life Cycle

Egg. Cream-colored, sausage-shaped eggs are deposited in a circular pattern directly in the

sheath and are associated with white, powdery wax secreted by the adults.

Nymph. Young nymphal stages are almost clear, becoming darker as the nymphs mature. Nymphs are thin, flat, and oval.

Pupa. At this stage the whitefly is black, oval, and about 1/50 inch long, with fine, white, waxy filaments along its margin.

Adult. The adult is typical in appearance of other whiteflies in Hawaii. It is less than 1/25 inch long, with unmarked white wings and a yellow body. Egg to adult developmental time appears to be less than a month. For a photograph of the adult, see HITAHR Brief No. 073, "Identifying Anthurium Flower Injuries," Figure 6b.

Pest Management

Monitoring. The presence of white, waxy, powdery material in leaf and flower sheaths is the most visible sign of whitefly infestation.

Control. Make three to four applications of an effective registered systemic insecticide at two-week intervals. Direct the sprays toward the sheath area. If contact insecticides are used, at least four to five applications at two-week intervals will be needed to control the whitefly.